IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: CARTELLA, Pietro

SERIAL NO.:

FILED:

Herewith

TITLE: STRUCTURE FOR THE FRONT OF A VEHICLE, OF THE TYPE WITH CONTROL

OF THE DEFORMATION FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF THE PEDESTRIAN

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Structure for the a front of a vehicle, of the type with deformation

control for the safeguard of pedestrians, cooperating with a sensor means in order to detect the

approaching or actual impact, and including said structure comprising:

at least one air bag placed below the a bonnet component, and

a "soft nose" shape of the a front part of the vehicle, characterized in that it is

composed wherein said front part is comprised of at least one interchangeable pre-assembled frontal

module made comprised of a thermoplastic material that includes the has a motor bonnet covering,

the a bumper covering and the a covering of the mudguards, respectively left and right side, said pre-

assembled module resulting hinged in correspondence to the a front side of the vehicle

2. (Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to claim 1,

characterized in that wherein the pre-assembled frontal module is, at least on one side, deformable

or capable of being raised by air bags placed under said module interacting with said sensor means,

maintaining the a rear and frontal portion coupled.

-2-

- 3. (Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the Claim 1, further comprising a first set of air bags of the front lateral type are being placed along the front end of the vehicle, while the and a second set of air bags of the vertical lateral type are being placed to the sides of said structure for the front of said vehicle.
- 4. (Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to the previous claims, characterized in that Claim 1, further comprising an interacting lock, in the rear part of the preassembled module and in proximity of the border, an interacting lock with and having a belt connected to a pre-tensioner, is foreseen.
- 5. (Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to the previous claims, characterized in that the Claim 2, wherein a body includes of the front part comprises a crossbeam in a retracted position with respect to the bumper covering and bears, in correspondence to the front side, a dissipater or absorber of energy which is to be partially covered by the shape of the bumper covering of the pre-assembled module.
- 6. (Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to the previous claims, characterized in that Claim 5, further comprising a strut of the a funnel-shaped type cooperates cooperating with the crossbeam.
- 7. (Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to the previous claims, characterized in that Claim 1, wherein the pre-assembled module includes the further comprises a

bumper covering: shaped with rounded lines, that extends transversely along the front side of the vehicle, said bumper covering comprising:

centrally, the <u>an</u> area of the <u>a</u> radiator grid with the <u>an</u> area for the headlights on each side; <u>and</u>

an upper part turned up towards the rear part of the vehicle, that extends in correspondence with the engine bay, so far as to join up with the front border of the motor bonnet covering.

- 8.(Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to the previous claims, characterized in that the Claim 1, wherein said motor bonnet covering extends lengthways, from the connection with the bumper covering almost up to the <u>a</u> base of the <u>a</u> windscreen of the vehicle, ending with the rear border.
- 9. (Currently amended) Structure for the front of a vehicle, according to the previous claims, characterized in that Claim 1, wherein the left mudguard and that the right mudguard include the comprise a relative wheel arch, and an upper part that, each turned up above the corresponding wheel arch, joins to the corresponding lateral end of the motor bonnet covering.